

REMARKS

Amendments

Claims 1-10 are amended to use language in accordance with conventional US practice. New claims 11-20 are directed to further aspects of the invention and are supported throughout the disclosure. See, e.g., pages 4-6 and 8.

Election

In response to the Restriction Requirement presented in the March 31, 2009 Office Action, applicants hereby elect Group I. Claims 1-4 and 11-19 read on the elected invention. However, the Restriction Requirement is respectfully traversed.

In the Restriction, it is argued the Group I (drawn to a thermoplastic composition), Group II (drawn to an electrochromic system), and Group III (drawn to a process) lack the same special technical feature. Applicants disagree.

The Restriction alleges that the common technical feature among the Groups is a polymer having vinyl acetate groups, vinyl alcohol groups, and two types of acetal groups. This is incorrect. The common technical feature is an ion-conductive thermoplastic composition which comprises the particular partially acetalated polyvinyl alcohol, at least one support electrolyte, and at least one plasticizer. This ion-conductive thermoplastic composition forms a part of the subject matter of each of the Groups.

It is further alleged in the Restriction that the common technical feature among the Groups is known in the art, specifically in Papenfuhs et al. (US 7,538,304; WO 2203/020776). Specifically, it is asserted that Papenfuhs et al. disclose a polyvinyl butyral coacetalized with glyoxylic acid.

However, as noted above, the common technical feature of the Groups is an ion-conductive thermoplastic composition which comprises the particular partially acetalated polyvinyl alcohol, at least one support electrolyte, and at least one plasticizer. Papenfuhs et al. do not describe any ion-conductive thermoplastic composition, let alone an ion-conductive thermoplastic composition in accordance with applicants' claims.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Groups I-III all possess the same or corresponding special technical feature. Thus, the Groups possess unity of invention under PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2. Withdrawal of the Restriction and examination of

all pending claims together is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 29, 2009

MEISSNER-3